

# PRESS RELEASE

## Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

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### **On LCCR Report and Anniversary of Administration Anti-Profilng Pledge Conyers, Feingold Renew Call for Passage of End Racial Profiling Act**

Today Representative John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), the Ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, and Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI), the Ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Federalism, called upon the Bush Administration to follow through on its commitment to end racial profiling.

A report released today by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) details evidence that racial profiling may be increasing in the wake of 9-11. LCCR reports that around the nation 'Driving While Black' has been joined by 'Flying While Arab' in the lexicon of civil liberty issues. As the LCCR report persuasively argues, even after 9-11, racial profiling is simply ineffective and should be abandoned in favor of practices that focus on developing evidence of reasonable suspicion.

On February 27, 2001, the President declared before a Joint Session of Congress that racial profiling is wrong and we will end it in America. The very next day, Attorney General Ashcroft wrote a letter asking Congress to introduce racial profiling legislation. Conyers and Feingold introduced that legislation in June 2001, with strong bipartisan support.

Conyers said, "Two years ago, we agreed that it was time to end the practice of racial profiling, but we are no closer to that goal. The administration is years overdue on its commitment to deliver a DOJ profiling study and even the simple act of scheduling a meeting to discuss its position on our legislative proposal. Action must follow the words of the President and Attorney General or it is simply hollow rhetoric." He continued, "We must stand against racial profiling and ensure that in our pursuit of community safety and national security, law enforcement agencies will work to avoid activities that encroach upon the civil rights and civil liberties of citizens and legal residents of the United States."

Feingold said, "Now, perhaps more than ever before, our nation cannot afford to waste precious law enforcement resources or alienate Americans by tolerating discriminatory practices." He continued, "This valuable report underscores that it is past time for Congress and the President to enact comprehensive federal legislation that will ban racial profiling once and for all. I urge the President to make good on his pledge to end racial profiling."

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